



**OPEN**

# what's new... in Lexington County

Volume 03  
Issue 03  
Date July 2020

## Lexington County Sets Re-employment Pace for May. Strong Employment Growth Expected

Lexington County's employment in May was 2.45% greater than April and outpaced the region and the State. A total of 3,330 jobs were filled as a result with the majority of jobs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and health care sectors. The strong growth highlighted through the ManpowerGroup's survey found that 27% of employers in the Columbia MSA expect to hire in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. That response placed the region as the top MSA in the nation for expected job growth.

**DHEC issues updated guidance for COVID-19 scenarios in businesses.** The announcement provides generalized guidance for use by employers and employees to determine the best practices to utilize in various scenarios involving COVID-19 in the workplace. Access the updated guidance by clicking [HERE](#).

Sarah J. Johnson, Director  
Department of Economic Development

*Every quarter, we will update you on projects and matters impacting the County of Lexington's economic well-being.*

### Non-Contact Infrared Thermometers Available

As all of our operations adapt to daily screenings for COVID-19 and its symptoms, the County of Lexington Department of Economic Development will continue to issue Non-Contact Infrared Thermometers free of charge to our resident companies. In our effort to combat the virus we encourage you to request thermometer unit(s) for your company by emailing [edinfo@lex-co.com](mailto:edinfo@lex-co.com).

### Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation Expanding \$215.8 million investment will create 380 new jobs

The global leader in the production of generic respiratory medications and blow-fill-seal contract manufacturing is expanding to Lexington County. To view the press release, click [HERE](#).

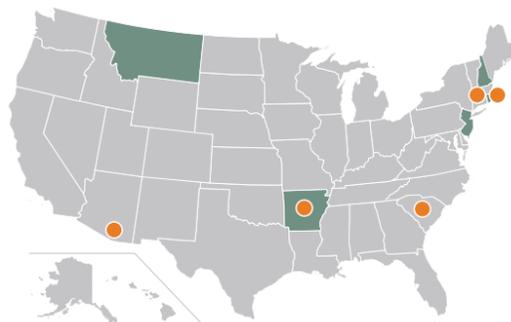
## Economic Development Briefs

Not seasonally adjusted County employment in May was 139,349, up 3,330, or 2.45% from the month prior. COVID-impacted employment hit its lowest at 136,019 in the month of April. Lexington County outpaced employment growth of the Columbia MSA (2.36%) and the South Carolina (2.44%) over the same period. May's unemployment rate was 8.2%, up from 2.8% one year ago.

Comparing the most current available industry data, the top growth sectors in the County from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018 to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2019 were: administrative support and waste management, manufacturing, health care and social services, information, and public administration. See chart.

Gross taxable monthly sales for the 1st quarter of 2020 were \$3.64 billion, up 4.5% from the same period

State and Metro Areas With the Strongest Jobs Outlook



**States:** Montana • New Hampshire  
New Jersey • Arkansas • Rhode Island

**Metro Areas:** Columbia, S.C. • Little Rock, Ark.  
Providence, R.I. • Springfield, Mass. • Tucson, Ariz.

## Lexington County Council

- District 1: Scotty "Scott" Whetstone (Chair)
- District 2: Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham, Jr.
- District 3: Darrell Hudson
- District 4: Debra B. "Debbie" Summers
- District 5: Bobby C. Keisler
- District 6: Erin Long Bergeson
- District 7: Beth A. Carrigg
- District 8: Glen M. Conwell
- District 9: M. Todd Cullum (Vice-Chair)

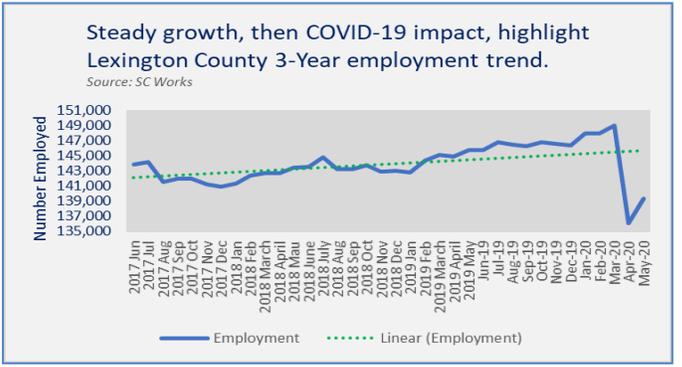
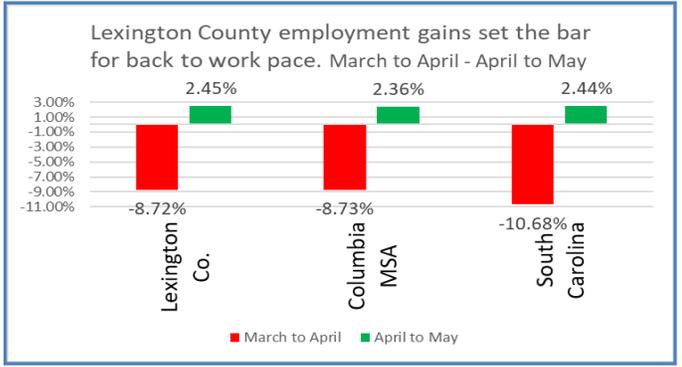
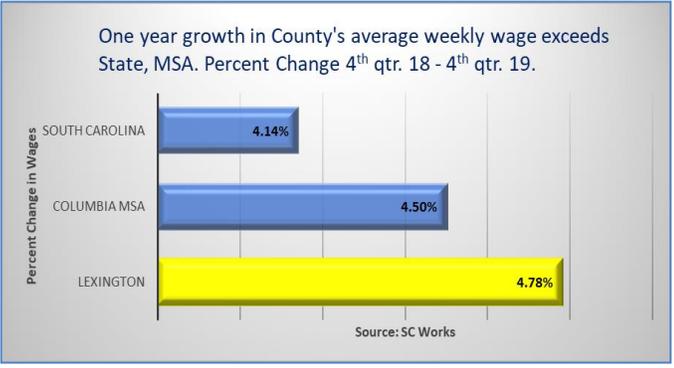
County Administrator  
Joe Mergo, III



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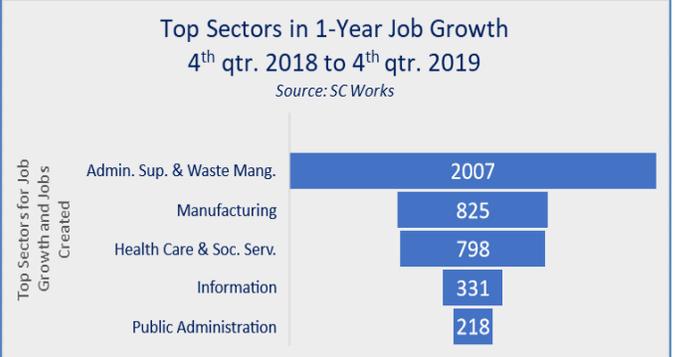
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## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT



## Projects in the Pipeline

The County of Lexington, Department of Economic Development staff is working on 14 active projects. These projects have an estimated new investment potential of \$353.6 million, and the potential to create 1,163 new jobs. Of the 14 active projects, one is at the announcement pending stage valued at \$8.5 million in new investment.



what's new in Lexington County is our quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to: [EDinfo@lex-co.com](mailto:EDinfo@lex-co.com)

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